

Although a subscriber is identified by using a subscriber's ID number in the fourth exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a unique ID number of the recording/reproducing apparatus itself may be used instead of the subscriber's ID number. Similar effect is obtained in an information on demand system that an owner of the write/read device is discriminated from the unique ID number of the recording/reproducing apparatus itself and the charge is collected from the owner of the recording/reproducing apparatus.

10 The system can be also composed so that the server registers the title name of the program for a particular program and when the subscriber wants to write the title name, the terminal controller can check at the terminal controller if the subscriber is requesting a server's approval.

15 The charging system can be made so that the information can be reproduced by only a recording/reproducing apparatus which was used to record the audio/video information and by any other reproducing apparatus. In this case, the system is composed so that the descramble apparatus is connected to an arbitrary reproducing apparatus. the descramble apparatus certifies whether the medium in which the information was written has an approved ID number and only when reading from the medium certified by the descramble apparatus, the descramble apparatus performs normally.

20 According to an information on demand system in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the present invention, when a copy without any deterioration of sound/picture quality is made, a different charging system from usual charge can be set. Especially, when an analog signal is outputted to a recording/reproducing apparatus as they are, an audio/video information having almost same quality as the server's information is recorded in a recording medium of the recording/reproducing apparatus and it is significant to provide with three charging systems.

25 Because programs and informations are always recorded/written in recording medium based on a subscriber's ID number and a recording/reproducing apparatus ID number, it is possible to restrict a recording/reproducing apparatus used at reproducing.

30 The invention may be embodied in other specific form without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof. The present embodiment is therefore to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description and all changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are therefore intended to be embraced therein.

35 50 What is claimed:

1. An information on demand system comprising:

a server apparatus for providing information according to a request from a subscriber;  
55 display means for displaying said information provided by said server apparatus; and  
recording means for recording said information provided by said server apparatus;

wherein a different amount is charged to said subscriber among a) in the case in which said information is provided to said display means, b) in the case in which said information is provided to said recording means and c) in the case in which said information is provided to said display means and to said recording means.

60 65 2. An information on demand system comprising:  
information providing means for providing information according to a request from a subscriber;

information receiving means for receiving said information provided by said information providing means;  
display means for displaying a further information signal output from said information receiving means;  
recording means for recording said further information signal of said information receiving means; 5  
subscriber mode discriminating means for discriminating whether said further information signal of said information receiving means is provided to one of said display means and said recording means: 10  
charging means for charging a different amount among a) in the case in which said further information is provided to said display means, b) in the case in which said further information is provided to said recording means and c) in the case in which said further information is provided to said display means and to said recording means according to an output of said subscriber mode discriminating means; and. 15  
charge registering means for registering charge data output from said charging means. 20

3. A server apparatus comprising:  
subscriber identification means for reading an identifying information to identify a subscriber;  
information providing means for providing information 25 according to a request from said subscriber;  
subscriber mode recognizing means for discriminating whether said information providing means provides said information a) to a subscriber display means, b) to a subscriber recording means or c) to said subscriber display means and said subscriber recording means;  
charging means for charging a different amount among a) in the case in which said information is provided to said subscriber display means, b) in the case in which said information is provided to said subscriber recording means and c) in the case in which said information is provided to said subscriber display means and to said subscriber recording means according to an output of 30 said subscriber mode recognizing means; and 35  
charge registering means provided for every subscriber for registering a charge data output from said charging means; and wherein said charge registering means accumulates the charge data output from said charging means at said charge registering means corresponding to said identifying information according to a discriminating information discriminated at said subscriber identification means. 40

4. A server apparatus comprising:  
provided information designating means for providing 50 information requested by a subscriber to a server;  
information receiving means for receiving said information provided by said server according to said subscriber request;  
subscriber mode discriminating means for discriminating whether an information signal output from said information receiving means is provided a) to a display means, b) to a recording means or c) to both the display means and the recording means and informing said subscriber through said information receiving means. 55

5. A subscriber apparatus comprising:  
information receiving means for receiving a provided information according to a request from a subscriber; subscriber mode discriminating means for discriminating 60 whether a further information signal output from said information receiving means is provided a) to a display 65

means. b) to a recording means or c) to both said display means and said recording means:

charging means for charging a different amount among a)  
5 in the case in which said further information is pro-  
vided to said display means. b) in the case in which said  
further information is provided to said recording means  
and c) in the case in which said further information is  
provided to said display means and to said recording  
means according to an output of said subscriber mode  
discriminating means; and

charge registering means for accumulating an amount  
output from said charging means.

6. A subscriber apparatus as recited in claim 5; wherein  
15 the charge registering means periodically informs the sub-  
scriber's charge to a server.

7. A subscriber apparatus comprising:

demodulating means for demodulating an information  
signal provided by a server; and

20 terminal control means for inputting a demodulated infor-  
mation signal of said demodulating means. outputting  
a signal to recording means which records said  
demodulated information signal in a recording medium  
in which a subscriber identification number is recorded  
25 and controlling supply of the output signal; and  
wherein

said terminal control means registers said subscriber  
identification number recorded in said recording  
30 medium of said recording means and an information  
identification number provided from said server in said  
terminal control means. when a subscriber finishes the  
recording of the information signal provided from said  
server in said recording medium of said recording  
means.

35 8. A subscriber apparatus as recited in claim 7; wherein  
said demodulated information signal is not output to said  
recording means. when the subscriber identification  
number is not recorded in the recording medium of said  
recording means.

40 9. A subscriber apparatus as recited in claim 7 or 8;  
wherein  
an identification number of said recording means is used  
instead of the subscriber identification number.

45 10. A subscriber apparatus as recited in claim 9 wherein:  
said subscriber is determined from the identification num-  
ber of said recording means; and  
a charge is collected from said subscriber.

11. A subscriber apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein  
50 when the subscriber records information provided from an  
information providing apparatus. said information can not  
be recorded unless the subscriber is approved by the server.

12. A method for providing information on demand com-  
prising the steps of:

55 receiving a request from a subscriber requesting informa-  
tion;

transmitting the information to at least one of a subscriber  
display means and a subscriber recording means for  
displaying and recording the information respectively.  
60 and

charging the subscriber one of a plurality of amounts  
depending upon whether the transmitted information is  
intended for recording on said recording means.

65 wherein said request for information indicates whether the  
subscriber is recording said information on said record-  
ing means.

13. An apparatus for providing information on demand comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request from a subscriber for information.

sending means for sending the information to at least one of a subscriber display means and a subscriber recording means for displaying and recording the information respectively. and

charging means for charging the subscriber one of a plurality of amounts depending upon whether the transmitted information is intended for recording on said recording means.

5 wherein said request for information indicates whether the subscriber is recording said information on said recording means.]

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1                   14. An information receiver  
2                   for at least one of receiving information and  
3                   recording said information on a recording  
4                   medium,

5                   said information charged  
6                   differently depending upon whether or not  
7                   said information is recorded on said  
8                   recording medium,

9                   said recording medium  
10                  evaluated to determine whether said  
11                  recording medium includes an identifier  
12                  prior to permitting recording of said  
13                  information on said recording medium.

1                   15. An information receiver  
2                   according to claim 14, wherein said  
3                   information receiver determines whether  
4                   said identifier is an approved identifier.

1                   16. An information receiver  
2                   for at least one of receiving information and  
3                   recording said information on a recording  
4                   medium, comprising:

5                   receiving means for receiving  
6                   information;

7                   recording means for recording  
8                   at least a portion of the information onto a  
9                   recording medium, said information charged  
10                  differently depending upon whether or not  
11                  said information is recorded on said  
12                  recording medium;

13                  verification means for  
14                  verifying that the recording medium  
15                  includes an identifier prior to permit  
16                  recording of said information on said  
17                  recording medium.

1                   17. An information receiver  
2                  according to claim 16, wherein said  
3                  verification means verifies whether the  
4                  identifier is an approved identifier.

1                   18. An information receiver  
2                  according to claim 14, further comprising  
3                  determination means for determining  
4                  whether the information should be provided  
5                  to the recording medium.

1                   19. An information receiver  
2                   according to claim 16, further comprising  
3                   determination means for determining  
4                   whether the information should be provided  
5                   to the recording medium.

1                   20. An information receiver  
2                   according to claim 18, further comprising  
3                   notification means for notifying the  
4                   determination made by said determination  
5                   means to a transmitter transmitting the  
6                   information.

1                   21. An information receiver  
2                   according to claim 19, further comprising  
3                   notification means for notifying the  
4                   determination made by said determination  
5                   means to a transmitter transmitting the  
6                   information.

1                   22. A method of charging  
2                   information, said method comprising the  
3                   steps of:

4                   receiving information in an  
5                   information receiver;

6                   recording the information onto  
7                   a recording medium if the recording medium  
8                   includes an identifier (ID); and

9                   charging a different amount  
10                  based on whether or not the information is  
11                  recorded on the recording medium.

1                   23. A method of charging  
2                   information according to claim 22, said  
3                   method further comprising the step of  
4                   verifying that said recording medium  
5                   includes said identifier.

1                   24. An information receiver  
2                   according to claim 14, said information  
3                   receiver further comprising:  
4                   a timer for indicating a time  
5                   period; and

6                   a storage device in which said  
7                   information is located,  
8                   wherein upon expiration of  
9                   said time period, availability of said  
10                  information in said storage device is  
11                  impaired.